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COMMUNITY AND HUMAN DEVELOPMENT

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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City of El Paso to Host **NEIGHBORHOOD LEADERSHIP ACADEMY**



- WHO:** Neighborhood Services Division of The City of El Paso's Department of Community and Human Development
- WHAT:** Citywide Neighborhood Leadership Academy – OPEN TO THE PUBLIC (FREE)
- WHEN:** **A 16-week course that meets every Wednesday from 6 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. Academy scheduled to begin on October 5, 2006 and Graduation scheduled on March 7, 2007**
- WHERE:** City Hall 8th Floor – Conference Room
Department of Community and Human Development
- WHY:** The Neighborhood Services division of the City of El Paso's Department of Community and Human Development will host the Neighborhood Leadership Academy scheduled to start on October 5, 2006. This academy is a 16-week course, scheduled to meet every Wednesday of the week from 6 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.

The goal of the Neighborhood Leadership Academy is to provide residents with information and knowledge so they may have equitable input on issues and policies affecting City Government. This program shapes the confidence of citizens who want to be knowledgeable of how City services and policy decisions operate and to also promote their individual purpose within civic and community affairs.

The Academy provides residents with practical skills in developing and organizing a neighborhood association and by empowering participants to focus on quality of life issues identified through a consensus building process with their neighbors. The El Paso City Council passed a citizen involvement policy to facilitate opportunities for citizens to be involved in local government and one of the goals is to establish the Neighborhood Leadership Academy for non-traditional leaders.

Objectives of the Neighborhood Leadership Academy are:

- to recruit non-traditional leaders
- offer participants the needed skill set to become effective neighborhood advocates and community leaders
- promote diversity within civic engagement and the decision making process
- enroll 40 to 50 participants
- ensure participants gain an understanding of new urbanism and smart growth principles
- offer a comprehensive curriculum with specific topics related to City services and personal development skills

The Neighborhood Leadership Academy aims to produce a creative learning environment by presenting comprehensive information from specific departments serving the City of El Paso.

Participants will receive valuable insight and information from the following City Departments:

- El Paso International Airport
- Community and Human Development
- Convention and Visitors Bureau
- City Clerk's Office
- City Manager and Elected Officials
- Developmental Services
- Economic Development
- Environmental Services
- Fire Department
- General Services
- El Paso City-County Health & Environmental District
- Library
- Museum and Cultural Affairs Department
- Parks and Recreation
- Police Department
- Sun Metro
- Street Department
- Traffic Engineering
- UTEP Center for Civic Engagement

Participant Selection Criteria:

- **Must be 18 years of age or older**
- **Must be a resident living within the El Paso City limits**
- **Must be a Non-Traditional leader - meaning a person who has not served previously on a board, commission or an elected office**
- **Must complete the Neighborhood Leadership Academy application form for enrollment (Applications are available at all City buildings – Libraries, Police Stations, City Hall 8th floor)**

Deadline for submission is September 22, 2006